'Tenasserim and Andamans' is ambiguous, because after the murder of Dr. Helfer by the aborigines in the North Andaman Is., his collections from Tenasserim and Andamans were unfortunately mixed up. Afterwards, all of them were labeled together as 'Tenasserim and Andamans'. Thus, many of his Tenasserim plants have also been ascribed to the Andaman flora (Parkinson 1923, Introduction: xi). This particular specimen seems to me to be from Tenasserim, Myanmar (Burma) because no specimen of ssp. *glauca* has been collected from the Andamans since Helfer's collection, more than a hundred years ago.

This circumstantial evidence shows that the inclusion of India in the distribution range of ssp. *glauca* is not based on firm ground. The true picture is likely to emerge only after the completion of floristic surveys in the underexplored regions of northeast India and the Andaman and Nicobar Is.

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37. ON TWO SPECIES OF *OSBECKIA* LINN. (MELASTOMATACEAE)

In the course of taxonomic revision of Family Melastomataceae for the Flora of India Project, two new species, namely *Osbeckia darjeelingensis* Giri & Nayar and *O. nayarii* Giri were described, based on some old material deposited in the Central National Herbarium (CAL) and the herbarium of the Eastern Circle, Botanical Survey of India (ASSAM). Additional

collections of these species were made after a lapse of over 50 years from the adjacent areas. In this paper, the field status of both the species is discussed and descriptive notes are provided for identification.

Osbeckia darjeelingensis Giri & Nayar *In*: Bull. Bot. Surv. India 25(1-4): 241-243, Fig. 1. a-f (1983) 1985.

Branched shrubs, stem and branches hexangular, densely covered with short, rigid, appressed hairs. Leaves linear-lanceolate, 3-5 nerved. Inflorescence a condensed panicle, bracts broadly ovate, often appear in series. Calyx tubes (hypanthium) sparsely covered with gland tipped emergences, intersepalar emergences with a terete stalk, hairy along length and terminated by a strong bristle. Petals obovate, bright purple. Capsules enclosed by urceolate calyx-tubes.

Note: The description of *O. darjeelingensis* was based on herbarium specimens collected during 1868-1910. The present collection was made during a survey of the phanerogamic flora of Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Jalpaiguri district in December, along with flowers and fruits (*Chandra and Mandal* 1105). The species was collected along with two other Melastomataceae species, namely *O. malabathricum* L. and *O. nepalensis* Hook. f. *O. malabathricum* is widely distributed throughout India, except in the arid zone, and *O. nepalensis* in the Eastern Himalayan ranges, extending to the northeastern states.

The present collection of *O. darjeelingensis* was made from a single undisturbed spot at a lower altitude than the previous records. Presently, the status of the species is indeterminate (presumed rare) and thorough search in range localities and effective measures for protection in the wild are needed. However, as the flowers and leaves of the species are very showy, it can well be introduced into gardens to serve the dual purposes of ornamentation and *ex situ* conservation.

Specimens examined at CAL: West Bengal: Darjeeling Terai, 29.x.1876 *Gamble* 20513; Darjeeling Terai, *Gamble* 28021; N. Bengal, Silligoree, 27.x.1868, *Kurz s.n.*; Buxa Red., W. Duars, Jan., 1880, *Gamble* 7671; NEC Beat of Jaldapara Wildlife Sanctuary, Jalpaiguri dist., 9.xii.1995, *S. Chandra & S.K. Mandal* 1105.

Sikkim: Sikkim Terai, *Ribu s.n.* (CAL); Mahanadi, Terai, 200-400 ft (61-122 m), 13.xii.1910, *Ribu & Rhomoo s.n.*; Sikkim, *J.D.H. s.n.*; locality not mentioned, *Narayanaswami s.n.*

Osbeckia nayarii Giri *In*: J. Econ. Tax. Bot. 4(2): 609. Fig. 1. A-E. 1983.

Branched herbs, stem and branches strongly quadrangular and distinctly winged at angles, glabrous. Leaves ovate-elliptic to ovate-lanceolate, 5-nerved. Inflorescence axillary or terminal condensed panicle; bracts ovate, calyx tubes (hypanthium) urceolate, glabrous; intersepalar emergences rudimentary, as a simple hair. Petals ovate-oblong, pinkish-purple. Capsules enclosed by urceolate, glabrous calyx-tubes with a distinct long neck.

Note: *O. nayarii* was described on the basis of specimens collected in 1886-1938 mainly from Khasia hills of Meghalaya and surroundings. The collection from Bengal Orientale [Bengal Or.] (*J.D.H. & T.T.*) is probably from the northeastern part of West Bengal, adjacent to the Assam border. The last collection of the species cited below was made from Shillong at *c.* 1,200 m, in 1986 during field study (*Pal s.n.*). A recent personal communication from the Scientists in the BSI, Eastern Circle, Assam also says that a good population exists in the area of the last collection. In the present study, additional material collected by Dr. King's collector in 1886, No. 239 (Acc. No. 171989) from Chittagong Hill Tracts,

Bangladesh was also traced at CAL and identified as *O. nayarii* Giri, which extended its eastern distribution.

Specimens examined at CAL: INDIA: Assam: Pantung Forest, 5.iv.1938, *K. Biswas s.n.*; locality not mentioned, *Junkings s.n.* Meghalaya: Khasia, *ca* 600 m, 14.ix.1886, Clarke 44776 A (Holotype); *Ibid., Clarke* 44776 B-D (Isotypes); Khasia, *G. Mann s.n.*; Shillong, *ca* 1,200 m, 7.v.1986, *Pal s.n.*; West Bengal: Bengal Or., *ca* 1,200 m, *J.D.H. & T.T. s.n.*

BANGLADESH: Chittagong Hill Tracts, 1886, Dr. King's collector No. 239.

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38. FIRST RECORD OF GUM EXUDATION FROM THE GONDA TREE *CORDIA MYXA* LINN. (FAMILY: BORAGINACEAE)

Gonda *Cordia myxa* Linn. (Boraginaceae) is an important horticultural tree. Gonda is also reported to have medicinal and therapeutic value (Chopra *et al.* 1956). In this paper, we report for the first time gum exudation from Gonda tree. In December, 1994, 490 gm of the gum was collected from trees around Jodhpur. The gum was in the form of irregular broken tears of varying size, generally colourless, with a brittle, fractured surface. The sample was odourless, mucilaginous and tasted bland. The powder was white in colour. The gum was practically insoluble in alcohol and almost entirely soluble in twice its weight of water, yielding a highly viscous, slightly acidic solution. When diluted with more water and allowed to stand, the sample produced a negligible amount of gummy residue. It was distinguishable from the Indian gum described in THE PHARMACOPOEIA OF INDIA (Anon 1970): (i) it produced a greenish instead of blue colour on treatment with hydrogen peroxide and benzidine, and (ii) it gave a white precipitate with lead acetate instead of no precipitate. Despite slight variations in its properties compared to Indian gum, the high solubility in water and attractive physical appearance of the Gonda gum may be exploited for use in various applications.

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